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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. 41003.P037

First Inventor Jeffrey G. Ort

Title A Multi-Plane Metaphoric Desktop User Interface and Methods of Operation...

Express Mail Label No. EL605443112US

Graphical Operation...

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. Applicant claims small entity status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.
3. Specification [Total Pages 23]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive title of the invention
 - Cross Reference to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to sequence listing, a table, or a computer program listing appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
4. Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 14]
5. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 4]
 - a. Newly executed (original or copy)
 - b. Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63 (d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 18 completed)

i. **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
6. Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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7. CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)
8. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. Computer Readable Form (CRF)
 - b. Specification Sequence Listing on:
 - i. CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
 - ii. paper
 - c. Statements verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

9. Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10. 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement Power of Attorney (when there is an assignee)
11. English Translation Document (if applicable)
12. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 Copies of IDS Citations
13. Preliminary Amendment
14. Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)
15. Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)
16. Request and Certification under 35 U.S.C. 122 (b)(2)(B)(i). Applicant must attach form PTO/SB/35 or its equivalent.
17. Other:

18. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:

Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP)

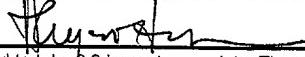
of prior application No.: _____ / _____

Prior application information: Examiner _____

Group Art Unit: _____

For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

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FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2001

Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$ 431.00)

Complete if Known

Application Number	Not yet assigned	0
Filing Date	November 20, 2000	11/20/00
First Named Inventor	Jeffrey G. Ort	11/18/00
Examiner Name	Not yet assigned	11/18/00
Group Art Unit	Not yet assigned	11/18/00
Attorney Docket No.	41003.P037	11/18/00

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Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

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FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101 710	201 355	Utility filing fee	355.00
106 320	206 160	Design filing fee	
107 490	207 245	Plant filing fee	
108 710	208 355	Reissue filing fee	
114 150	214 75	Provisional filing fee	
SUBTOTAL (1) (\$ 355.00)			

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

Total Claims	Independent Claims	Multiple Dependent	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
24	-20** = 4		X 9.00	= 36.00	
3	- 3** = 0		X 40.00	= 0.00	

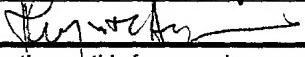
Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description
103 18	203 9	Claims in excess of 20
102 80	202 40	Independent claims in excess of 3
104 270	204 135	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
109 80	209 40	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
110 18	210 9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent
SUBTOTAL (2) (\$ 36.00)		

*or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105 130	205 65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127 50	227 25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139 130	139 130	Non-English specification	
147 2,520	147 2,520	For filing a request for ex parte reexamination	
112 920*	112 920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113 1,840*	113 1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115 110	215 55	Extension for reply within first month	
116 390	216 195	Extension for reply within second month	
117 890	217 445	Extension for reply within third month	
118 1,390	218 695	Extension for reply within fourth month	
128 1,890	228 945	Extension for reply within fifth month	
119 310	219 155	Notice of Appeal	
120 310	220 155	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121 270	221 135	Request for oral hearing	
138 1,510	138 1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140 110	240 55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
141 1,240	241 620	Petition to revive - unintentional	
142 1,240	242 620	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143 440	243 220	Design issue fee	
144 600	244 300	Plant issue fee	
122 130	122 130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
123 130	123 130	Petitions related to provisional applications	
126 180	126 180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581 40	581 40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	40.00
146 710	246 355	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
149 710	249 355	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
179 710	279 355	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
169 900	169 900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	
Other fee (specify) _____			
*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid			SUBTOTAL (3) (\$ 40.00)

SUBMITTED BY		Complete if applicable		
Name (Print/Type)	Aloysius T. C. AuYeung	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	35,432	Telephone 503-534-2800
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APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

FOR

**A Multi-Plane Metaphoric Desktop Graphical User Interface
and Methods of Operation Associated Therewith**

Inventor(s):
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Eric Engstrom

Prepared by:

COLUMBIA IP LAW GROUP, LLC

"Express Mail" label number: EL605443112US

A Multi-Plane Metaphoric Desktop and Methods of Operation

Associated Therewith

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the fields of data processing. More specifically, the present invention relates to the provision of graphical user interface.

10 2. Background Information

Graphical user interface (GUI) is known in the art. In particular, the single plane metaphoric desktop is well known in the art, adopted by numerous operating systems, including the Windows Family of Operating Systems, available from Microsoft of Redmond, WA.

15 In a single plane metaphoric desktop, various icons are provided to represent the user's computer, the user's network neighborhood, mapped devices, installed programs, file/document folders, the files/documents themselves, and so forth. A user would access the various resources, files and documents by interacting with the icons, as one would interface with various objects in one's desktop in the
20 physical world.

Further, various display windows are typically rendered on the single plane desktop to facilitate concurrent displays of execution results of multiple applications executing at the same time, including execution results or contents provided by remote "on-line" applications, such as content or web servers of the world wide web.

25 The execution results or contents provided by the applications are rendered or displayed in their corresponding display windows. Under the prior art single plane

metaphoric desktop GUI, no distinctions are made between rendering the execution results or provided contents of “locally” executed applications, and remotely executed “on-line” applications.

With advances in integrated circuit, microprocessor, networking and
5 communication technologies, increasing number of devices, in particular, digital computing devices, are being “networked” together, via persistent wire line or wireless networking connections as well as dial up connections. As a result, more and more network dependent applications are deployed, including emails, e-commerce, and the earlier mentioned world wide web. Further, the provided
10 contents have gone from mundane textual contents to rich multi-media contents. At the same time, as the affordability of these network enabled devices continue to improve, more and more novice users are now going “on-line”.
15

Thus, further enhancements to the present GUI that provide even greater user experience, especially for the content rich execution results of the on-line applications, are desired.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

20 A computing device is provided with a number of programming instructions to cause display of first execution results of a first set of applications in a first plane of a metaphoric desktop, and display of second execution results of a second set of applications in a second plane of the metaphoric desktop. In one embodiment, the programming instructions are further designed to morph the metaphoric desktop
25 from one plane to another. In one embodiment, the second set of applications are on-line applications, and the programming instructions are designed to cause the

metaphoric desktop to morph from the first plane to the second plane when the computing device is being connected on line; and cause the metaphoric desktop to morph back to the first plane in response to a user request to return to the first plane.

5

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The present invention will be described by way of exemplary embodiments,
10 but not limitations, illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which like references denote similar elements, and in which:

Figures 1a-1c illustrate an end user interface view of the present invention, in accordance with one embodiment;

Figures 2a-2b illustrate two end user interface views of the present invention, 15 in accordance with two alternate embodiments;

Figures 3a-3b illustrate another two end user interface views of the present invention, in accordance with yet another two alternate embodiments;

Figures 4a-4b illustrate a method view of the present invention, in accordance with one embodiment;

20 **Figure 5** illustrates a component view of a system, incorporated with the teachings of the present invention, in accordance with one embodiment;

Figures 6a-6c illustrate the operational flow of the relevant aspects of the supplemental display manager of **Fig. 5**, in accordance with one embodiment;

25 **Figures 7a-7b** illustrate the operational flow of the relevant aspects of the local agent of **Fig. 5**, in accordance with one embodiment; and

Figure 8 illustrates an architectural view of an example computer system suitable for practicing the present invention, in accordance with one embodiment.

5 **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

In the following description, various aspects of the present invention will be described. However, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced with only some or all aspects of the present invention.

- 10 For purposes of explanation, specific numbers, materials and configurations are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. However, it will also be apparent to one skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced without the specific details. In other instances, well known features are omitted or simplified in order not to obscure the present invention.
- 15 Parts of the description will be presented using terms such as end-user interfaces, buttons, and so forth, commonly employed by those skilled in the art to convey the substance of their work to others skilled in the art. Parts of the description will be presented in terms of operations performed by a computing device, using terms such as monitoring, intercepting, copying, saving, replacing, and so forth. As
- 20 well understood by those skilled in the art, these quantities and operations take the form of electrical, magnetic, or optical signals capable of being stored, transferred, combined, and otherwise manipulated through mechanical and electrical components of a digital system. The term digital system includes general purpose as well as special purpose computing machines, systems, and the like, that are standalone,
- 25 adjunct or embedded.

Various operations will be described in turn in a manner that is most helpful in understanding the present invention, however, the order of description should not be construed as to imply that these operations are necessarily order dependent. Furthermore, the phrase "in one embodiment" will be used repeatedly, however the
5 phrase does not necessarily refer to the same embodiment, although it may.

Overview of Applications

Referring now to **Figures 1a-1c**, wherein three block diagrams illustrating an end user view of the present invention, in accordance with one embodiment, are
10 shown. Illustrated in **Fig. 1a** is an end user view of first plane **102a** of multi-plane metaphoric desktop graphical user interface (GUI) **100** of the present invention. For the example illustration, illustrated first plane **102a** is the front face of the metaphoric desktop GUI **100**. Within each plane, such as illustrated front face **102a**, metaphoric desktop GUI **100** is operated substantially as the prior art single plane metaphoric
15 desktop GUI. Various icons, such as icons **104a-104b** are displayed to represent various resources available on the host system, such as devices, shortcuts, folders, programs, files, documents, and so forth. Additionally, various display windows, such as display windows **106a-106b**, are rendered to display the execution results of a number of applications being concurrently executed. However, in accordance
20 with the present invention, the execution results of the applications displayed within the display windows of a plane of the multi-plane metaphoric desktop GUI of the present invention are type based. That is, under the present invention, the applications are typed, and their execution results are displayed in display windows of different planes of multi-plane metaphoric desktop GUI **100** of the present
25 invention in accordance with their types. In one two-plane embodiment, also referred to as a front and back face embodiment, applications are divided into two

types. "Locally" executed applications are considered as one type, and "on-line" applications are considered as another type.

For the purpose of this application, the terms "local" (or "locally") and "on-line" are used in a general non-definitive manner, as shorthand labels to contrast two types of applications for convenience. What constitute "local" or "on-line" applications are application dependent, and may vary from one embodiment to another. In one embodiment, applications offered through the world wide web are considered "on-line" applications, as users generally perceive accessing one of these applications as going "on-line", and all other applications are considered "local" applications, including e.g. applications executing on a remote server coupled to the host computer through a local or even wide area network. Also, for ease of understanding, only two icons and windows are shown, and other typical GUI features are omitted from **Fig. 1a-1c**.

Continuing with **Figs. 1-3**, in accordance with the present invention, under pre-determined conditions, to be described more fully below, multi-plane metaphoric desktop **100** would morph itself from a current visible plane, such as front face **102a** (illustrated by **Fig. 1b**), to a second plane, such as back face **102b**, where a number of display windows, such as display windows **108a** and **108b**, are rendered to display execution results of a number of "on-line" applications concurrently being executed, such as contents served up by a number of web servers (illustrated by **Fig. 1c**). For the illustrated embodiment, the morphing of multi-plane metaphoric desktop **100** is conveyed by animating a rotation over diagonal axis D-D.

Thus, under the present invention, a more dramatic experience may be provided to a user, when the user switches from applications of one type to another, e.g. when the user goes from "local" applications to "on-line" applications, or when the user goes back from "on-line" application to "local" applications.

Figures 2a-2b illustrate two alternate embodiments for animating the morphing of multi-plane desktop **100** of the present invention. More specifically, **Fig. 2a** illustrates conveying of the morphing by animating a rotation over horizontal axis X-X, whereas **Fig. 2b** illustrates conveying of the morphing by animating a 5 rotation over vertical axis Y-Y.

Figures 3a-3b illustrate another two alternate embodiments for animating the morphing of multi-plane desktop **100** of the present invention. More specifically,

Fig. 3a illustrates conveying of the morphing by animating a number of simultaneous rotations of different portions of desktop **100** over a number of 10 corresponding horizontal axes X1-X3, whereas **Fig. 3b** illustrates conveying of the morphing by animating a number of simultaneous rotations of different portions of desktop **100** over a number of vertical axes Y1-Y3.

Obviously, the number of portions and axes employed are for illustrative purpose only. The present invention may be practiced with more or less 15 portions/axes. In fact, the present invention may be practiced with other types of morphing when switching from a current visible plane to another plane, making the other plane the current visible plane.

Method

20 **Figure 4a-4b** illustrate a method view of the present invention, in accordance with one embodiment. As illustrated, at block **402**, one plane or face of the multi-plane metaphoric desktop GUI, e.g. the front face, is “selected” as the current visible plane/face. At block **402**, execution results of the applications of the type 25 corresponding to the plane/face selected to be the current visible plane/face, e.g. “locally” executed applications, are rendered in the corresponding display windows in the plane/face. At block **406**, it is determined whether certain plane/face

switching events have been detected, e.g. the user going “online”. If not, the process returns to block **404**. Eventually, when one such event is detected, the process continues at block **408**.

- As illustrated, at block **408**, a second plane/face, e.g. the back face, is
- 5 selected to be current visible plane/face. At block **410**, the execution results of the applications of the type corresponding to the newly selected current visible plane/face, e.g. “online” applications, are additionally rendered and displayed in their corresponding display windows within the current visible plane/face. At block **412**, a series of animation operations, e.g. rotation over a selected axis, are performed to
- 10 provide the user with the perception of the desktop GUI morphing from the first plane/face to the second plane/face.

- Thereafter, the process continues at block **414**, where once again plan/face switching events, such as the user going offline/online are monitored, while the execution results of the applications of the various types are continue to be
- 15 rendered in the display windows of the corresponding planes/faces, even though only the display windows of the current visible plane/face are visible. The process remains at block **414** until eventually one such plane/face switching event is detected. Upon detection of such an event, at block **416**, a new current visible plane/face is selected. At block **418**, again a series of animation operations are
- 20 performed to provide the user with a perception of the desktop GUI morphing from the previously current visible plane/face to the newly selected current visible plane/face. At block **420**, the corresponding rendering of the execution results of the applications in the display windows of the corresponding planes/faces continue.
- The operations of blocks **414-420** continue, until the user ends his/her current
- 25 session, e.g. logging off or otherwise shutting down his/her system.

Component View of Environment

Referring now to **Figure 5**, wherein a block diagram illustrating a component view of a system environment suitable for practicing the present invention, in accordance with one embodiment. As illustrated, system environment **500** includes

5 operating system **504** having window manager **506**, graphics services **508** and device drivers **510**, offering a number of system services in support of applications, such as applications **502**. Among the services offered are windowing services offered by window manager **506** to facilitate concurrent display of the execution results of multiple applications **502** executing at the same time. The services also

10 include graphics services offered by graphics services **508** to facilitate graphics rendering by the executing applications. These graphics services include high level graphics calls for rendering complex graphical objects, as well as low level "direct draw" services for rendering low level detail graphical primitives. Device drivers **510** offer various device specific services, including in particular display rendering and

15 associated operations on the pixel value contents of the display screen memory (not shown). Further, operating system **504** includes services for notifying applications **502** of cursor events associated with the display windows of the applications, as well as automatic handling of a number of basic cursor events, e.g. "dragging" or otherwise relocating a display window.

20 Additionally, for the illustrated embodiment, environment **500** includes supplemental display manager **514** and local agent **516**. Supplemental display manager **514** operates to supplement window manager **506** in providing like kind of services, such as windowing services, to applications of the other types, whose execution results are to be displayed in display windows of the additional planes/faces. For the illustrated embodiment, supplemental display manager **514** effectuates provisions of the like services with the assistance of local agent **512** (the

other applications are assumed to be remote “on-line” applications). Similar to window manager **506**, supplemental display manager **514** also uses the graphics services and device services offered by graphics services **508** and device drivers **510** respectively.

5 Window manager **506**, graphics services **508**, device driver **510** and the services they offer are known in the art. The essential aspects of the supplemental display manager **514** and local agent **512** will be further described in turn below.

Supplemental Display Manager

10 **Figure 6a-6c** illustrate the operational flow of the relevant aspects of supplemental display manager **514** of the **Fig. 5**, in accordance with one embodiment. As illustrated, upon initialization or set up, supplemental display manager **514** “registers” itself with operating system **504** to be notified of certain events, which are considered to be display plane/face switching events. Examples
15 of such events include a user going on-line (as indicated e.g. by connection to a predetermined port), or going offline (as indicated e.g. by disconnection from the predetermined port). In one embodiment, certain predetermined key sequences (e.g. ctrl-s) are also considered to be display plane/face switching events. The number and exact nature of events to be considered as plane/face switching events
20 are application dependent. More or less predetermined events may be employed.

Upon registration, as illustrated, supplemental display manager **514** awaits for notifications of the events of interest, block **604**. Upon first notified of such an event (which for the illustrated embodiment is assumed to occur while the “front” plane/face where the graphics services draw to is the current visible plane/face),
25 supplemental display manager **514** redirects graphics services to output to a first temporary buffer instead, block **606**. That is, when requested by applications **502** to

render their execution results in their display windows, instead of requesting the device drivers **510** to output the appropriate graphics/texts to the standard display screen memory buffer (not shown), graphics services **508** would output the appropriate graphics/texts to the designated first temporary buffer.

5 Additionally, supplemental display manager **514** would begin to accept output displays of the applications of the current visible display plane/face in a second temporary buffer. For the illustrated embodiment, it is assumed that there are two display planes/faces, thus the other display plane/face by default is the next current visible plane/face. In alternate embodiments where more than 2 planes/faces are
10 employed, any one of a number of application dependent approaches may be employed to determine which of the other planes/faces is to be selected as the next current visible plane/face, and have that other plane/face set as the current visible plane/face accordingly. Additionally, for the illustrated embodiment, the applications corresponding to the second plane/face are assumed to be "online" applications,
15 whose outputs are received by supplemental display manager **514** though local agent **512**.

Upon beginning acceptance of the execution results of the applications corresponding to the now current visible plane/face, supplemental display manager **514** further causes contents of the now current visible plane/face to be gradually output to the standard display screen buffer, to provide the user with the perception of the desktop morphing from the previous current visible plane/face to the new current visible plane/face. In one embodiment, the morphing perception is effectuated by performing a series of animation operations combining the contents of the screen display buffer and the second temporary buffer, to portray a rotation of
20 the desktop over a predetermined axis, such as a diagonal, one or more horizontal/vertical axes, as described earlier, referencing **Fig. 2a-2b** and **Fig. 3a-3b**.
25

Thereafter, supplemental display manager **514** continues to accept execution results of the applications corresponding to the now current visible plane/face, while the graphics services would output the execution results of the applications corresponding to the previously current visible plane/face to the first temporary

5 buffer. The contents of the previous visible plane/face are advantageously maintained (in the first temporary buffer) to ensure the multi-plane operations are transparent to the applications corresponding to the previous visible plane/face (e.g. "local" applications). Further, the contents of the previous visible plane/face may be readily available, when it is to be made to visible plane/face again.

10 Once the switching is effectuated, as illustrated, at block **614**, supplemental display manager **514** further registers with operating system **504** to be notified of all cursor events. Thereafter, at block **616**, supplemental display manager **514** awaits notifications of face switching events again. Upon notified of another display plane/face switching event, supplemental display manager **514**, at block **618** (for the
15 illustrated embodiment), gradually outputs the contents of the first temporary buffer to the standard display screen buffer, providing the user with the perception of the desktop morphing from the second display plane/face back to the first display plane/face. Again, as described earlier, the morphing may be effectuated through a series of animation operations.

20 At block **620**, upon effectuating the desired morphing, supplemental display manager **514** redirects graphics services **508** to resume outputting the execution results of the applications corresponding to the first plane/face to the standard display screen memory again. Further, at block **622**, for the illustrated embodiment (assuming a two-plane embodiment), supplemental display manager **514** un-
25 registers itself with operating system **504** such that it will not be notified of cursor

events again (allowing window manager **506** to resume notifying applications **502** of the first plane of associated cursor events).

Thereafter, supplemental display manager **514** continues its operations at block **604** as earlier described.

- 5 As illustrated in **Fig. 6c**, for the illustrated embodiment, while registered to be notified of cursor events (which is when supplemental display manager **514** causing execution results of the applications corresponding to the “second” display plane/face to be output to the display screen manager directly, and graphics services **508** has been redirected to output to the first temporary buffer), upon being
10 notified of a cursor event, supplemental display manager **514** forwards the cursor event to the appropriate application through local agent **512**. The applications in turn handle the applicable cursor events as in the prior art.

Local Agent

- 15 **Figure 7a-7b** illustrates the operational flow of the relevant aspects of local agent **512** of the present invention, in accordance with one embodiment. As illustrated by **Fig. 7a**, upon initialization or set up, local agent **512** awaits for the graphics service requests of the applications corresponding to the alternate display planes/faces to output their execution results, block **702**. Upon requested, local
20 agent **512** forwards the graphics service requests to supplemental display manager **514**, which in turn outputs the graphics/texts to the second temporary buffer as early described.

- As to cursor events, as illustrated by **Fig. 7b**, in like manner, local agent **512** awaits notification of cursor events by supplemental display manager **514**. Upon
25 being notified of such an event, local agent **512** forwards the cursor event to the

appropriate application, block **712**. The appropriate application may be determined in accordance with where the cursor events occurred.

Example Computer System

5 **Figure 8** illustrates an example computer system suitable for use to practice the present invention, in accordance with one embodiment. As shown, system **800** includes one or more processors **802** and system memory **806**. Additionally, system **800** includes mass storage devices **806** (such as diskette, hard drive, CDROM and so forth), GPIO **808** (for interfacing with I/O devices such as keyboard, cursor control and so forth) and communication interfaces **810** (such as network interface cards, modems and so forth). The elements are coupled to each other via system bus **812**, which represents one or more buses. In the case of multiple buses, they are bridged by one or more bus bridges (not shown). Each of these elements performs its conventional functions known in the art. In particular, system memory
10 **804** and mass storage **806** are employed to store a working copy **814b** and a permanent copy **814a** of the programming instructions implementing supplemental display manager **514** and/or local agent **512**. Except for its use to host the novel supplemental display manager **514** and/or local agent **512** of the present invention.
15 The constitution of these elements **802-814** are known, and accordingly will not be further described.
20

Accordingly, a multi-plane metaphoric desktop GUI, and the method of operation associated therewith have been described. It can be seen that the multi-plane metaphoric desktop of the present invention advantageously provides the user
25 with a much dramatic user experience when the user switches between applications of different types.

While the present invention has been described in terms of the above illustrated embodiments, those skilled in the art will recognize that the invention is not limited to the embodiments described. The present invention can be practiced with modification and alteration within the spirit and scope of the appended claims. Thus, the description is to be regarded as illustrative instead of restrictive on the present invention.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. In an apparatus including a display, a method of operation comprising:
 - 2 displaying first execution results of a first plurality of applications in a first
 - 3 plane of a metaphoric desktop; and
 - 4 displaying second execution results of a second plurality of applications in a
 - 5 second plane of the metaphoric desktop.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said second plurality of applications are on-line applications, and the method further comprises monitoring for the apparatus being connected on-line.

- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises morphing from said first plane of the metaphoric desktop to the second plane of the metaphoric desktop in response to detection of a predetermined event.

- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said morphing comprises animating a 180 degree rotation of the metaphoric desktop over a selected one of a diagonal axis, a vertical axis and a horizontal axis.

- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said morphing comprises animating a plurality of 180 degree rotations of a plurality of portions of the metaphoric desktop over a selected one of a plurality of corresponding vertical axes and a plurality of corresponding horizontal axes.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said first and second planes are front and
2 back planes of the metaphoric desktop.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein
2 said displaying of first execution results of the first plurality of applications in a
3 first plane of a metaphoric desktop comprises storing pictorial representations of
4 said first execution results into a standard display screen buffer by a graphics
5 services; and
6 said displaying of second execution results of the second plurality of
7 applications in a second plane of the metaphoric desktop comprises redirecting said
8 graphics service to store pictorial representations of said first execution results of
9 said first plurality of applications to an alternate display screen buffer, and storing
10 pictorial representations of said second execution results of said second plurality of
11 applications into said standard display screen buffer.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein
2 said second plurality of applications are on-line applications; and
3 said redirecting of said graphics service to store pictorial representations of
4 said first execution results of said first plurality of applications to an alternate display
5 screen buffer, and subsequent storing of pictorial representations of said second
6 execution results of said second plurality of applications into said standard display
7 screen buffer, are initially performed in response to said apparatus being connected
8 on-line.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises resuming said
2 storing of pictorial representations of said first execution results of said first plurality
3 of applications to said standard display screen buffer by said graphics service.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein said resumption are performed in response
2 to a user request to return to said first plane of said metaphoric desktop.

1 11. An apparatus comprising
2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions
3 designed to display first execution results of a first plurality of applications in a first
4 plane of a metaphoric desktop, and second execution results of a second plurality of
5 applications in a second plane of the metaphoric desktop; and
6 a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming
7 instructions.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said second plurality of applications are
2 on-line applications, and the programming instructions are further designed to
3 monitor for the apparatus being connected on-line.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said programming instructions are further
2 designed to morph from said first plane of the metaphoric desktop to the second
3 plane of the metaphoric desktop in response to detection of a predetermined event.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said programming instructions are
2 designed to effectuate said morphing by animating a 180 degree rotation of the

3 metaphoric desktop over a selected one of a diagonal axis, a vertical axis and a
4 horizontal axis.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said programming instructions are
2 designed to effectuate said morphing by animating a plurality of 180 degree
3 rotations of a plurality of portions of the metaphoric desktop over a selected one of a
4 plurality of corresponding vertical axes and a plurality of corresponding horizontal
5 axes.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first and second planes are front and
2 back planes of the metaphoric desktop.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said programming instructions are
2 designed to effectuate
3 said displaying of first execution results of the first plurality of applications in a
4 first plane of a metaphoric desktop by storing pictorial representations of said first
5 execution results into a standard display screen buffer by a graphics services, and
6 said displaying of second execution results of the second plurality of
7 applications in a second plane of the metaphoric desktop by redirecting said
8 graphics service to store pictorial representations of said first execution results of
9 said first plurality of applications to an alternate display screen buffer, and storing
10 pictorial representations of said second execution results of said second plurality of
11 applications into said standard display screen buffer.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein
2 said second plurality of applications are on-line applications; and

3 said programming instructions are designed to initially perform said
4 redirecting of said graphics service to store pictorial representations of said first
5 execution results of said first plurality of applications to an alternate display screen
6 buffer, and subsequent storing of pictorial representations of said second execution
7 results of said second plurality of applications into said standard display screen
8 buffer, in response to said apparatus being connected on-line.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the programming instructions are further
2 designed to resume said storing of pictorial representations of said first execution
3 results of said first plurality of applications to said standard display screen buffer by
4 said graphics service.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said programming instructions are
2 designed to perform said resumption in response to a user request to return to said
3 first plane of said metaphoric desktop.

1 21. A graphical user interface comprising:
2 a metaphoric desktop having a first and a second plane;
3 the first plane being used to display execution results of a first plurality of
4 applications; and
5 the second plane being used to display execution results of a second plurality
6 of applications.

1 22. The graphical user interface of claim 21, wherein the graphical user interface
2 further includes the metaphoric desktop morphing from a selected one of the first
3 and second planes to the other.

1 23. The graphical user interface of claim 21, wherein said morphing comprises a
2 180 degree rotation of the metaphoric desktop over a selected one of a diagonal
3 axis, a vertical axis and a horizontal axis.

1 24. The graphical user interface of claim 21, wherein said morphing comprises a
2 plurality of 180 degree rotations of a plurality of portions of the metaphoric desktop
3 over a selected one of a plurality of corresponding vertical axes and a plurality of
4 corresponding horizontal axes.

1

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A computing device is provided with a number of programming instructions to
5 cause display of first execution results of a first set of applications in a first plane of
a metaphoric desktop, and display of second execution results of a second set of
applications in a second plane of the metaphoric desktop. In one embodiment, the
programming instructions are further designed to morph the metaphoric desktop
from one plane to another. In one embodiment, the second set of applications are
10 on-line applications, and the programming instructions are designed to cause the
metaphoric desktop to morph from the first plane to the second plane when the
computing device is being connected on line; and cause the metaphoric desktop to
morph back to the first plane in response to a user request to return to the first
plane.

15

100

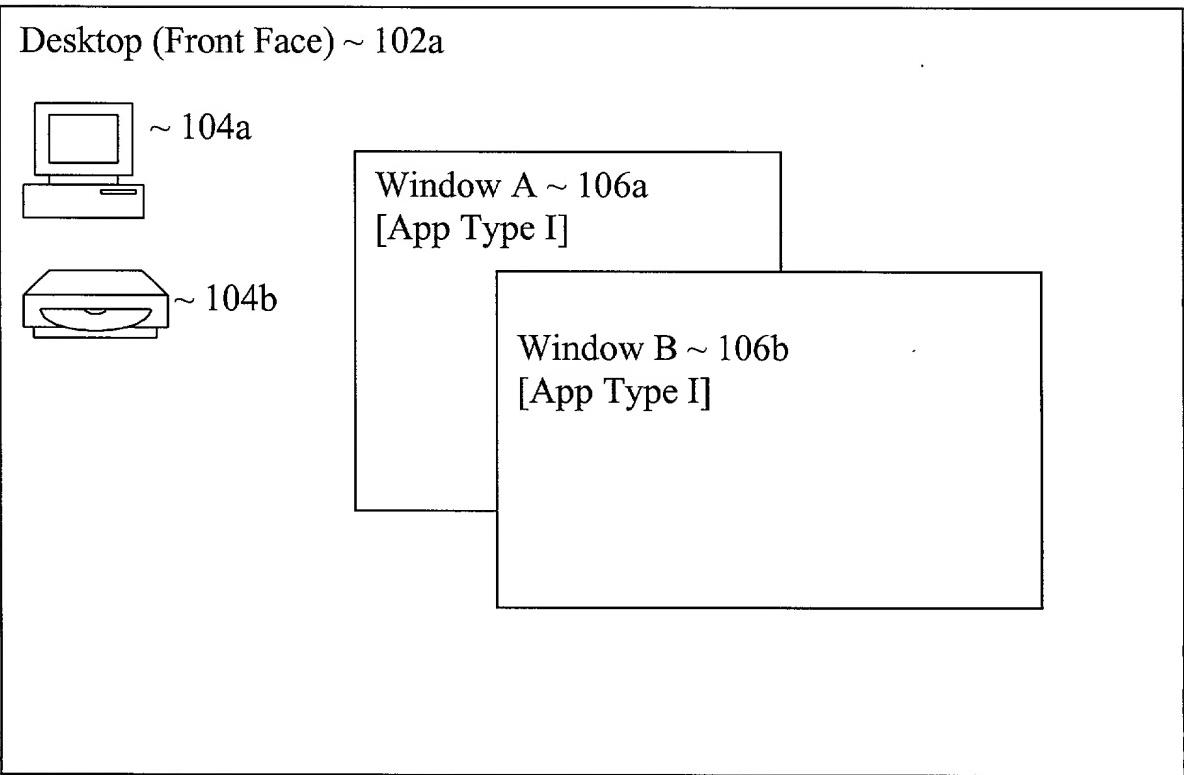


Figure 1a

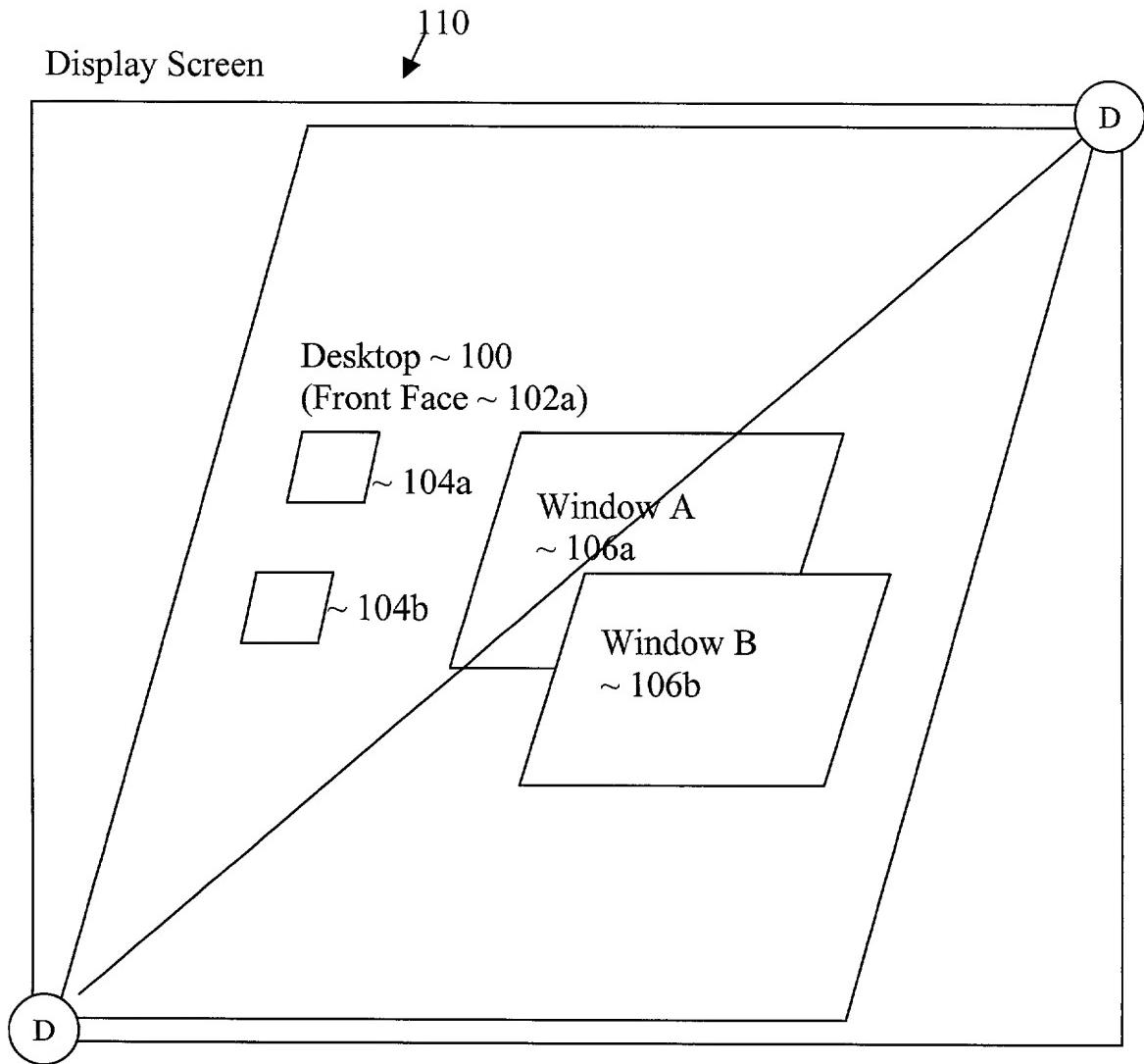


Figure 1b

100

Desktop (Front Face) ~ 102b

Window A ~ 108a
[App Type II]

Window B ~ 108b
[App Type II]

Figure 1c

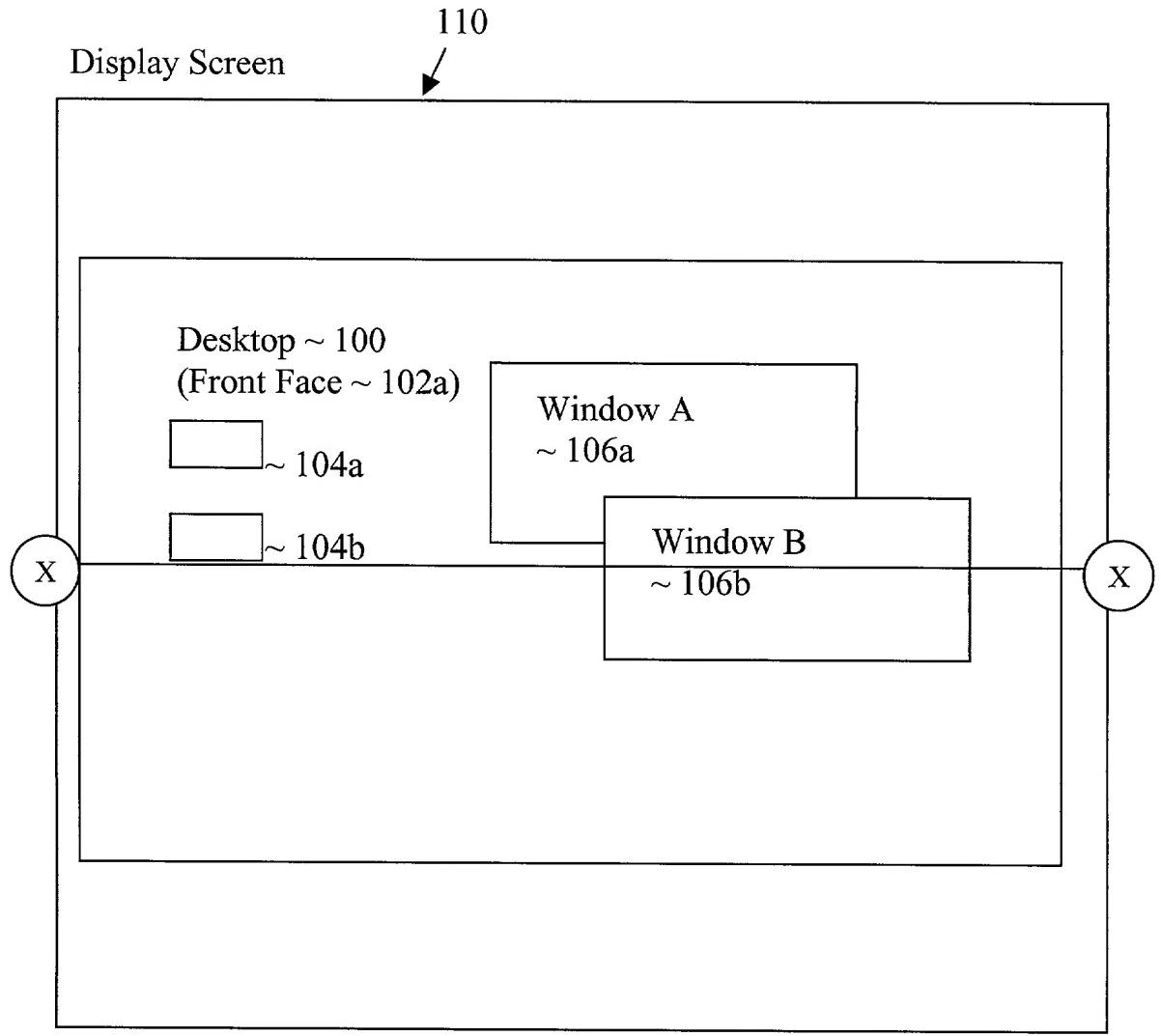


Figure 2a

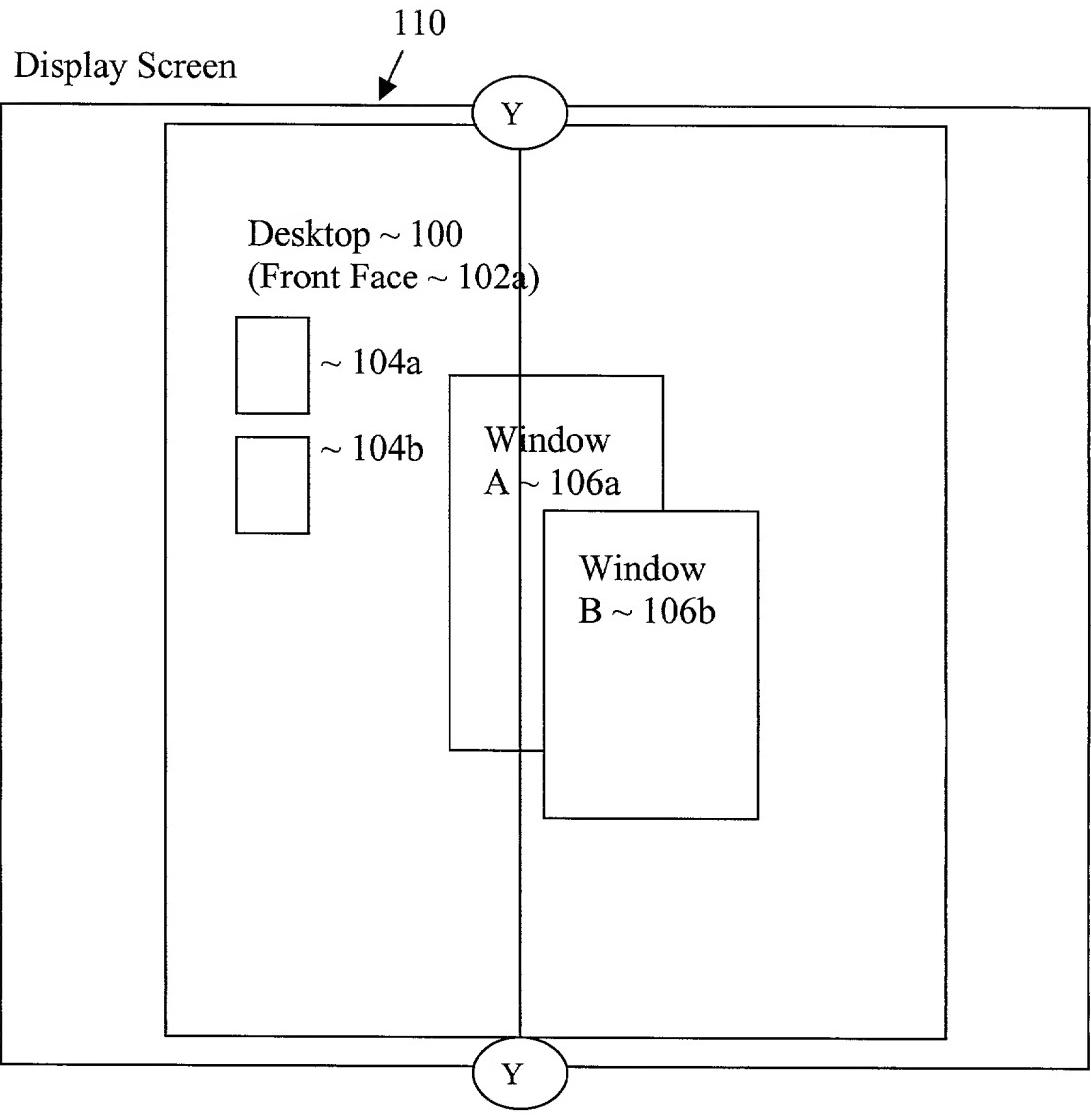


Figure 2b

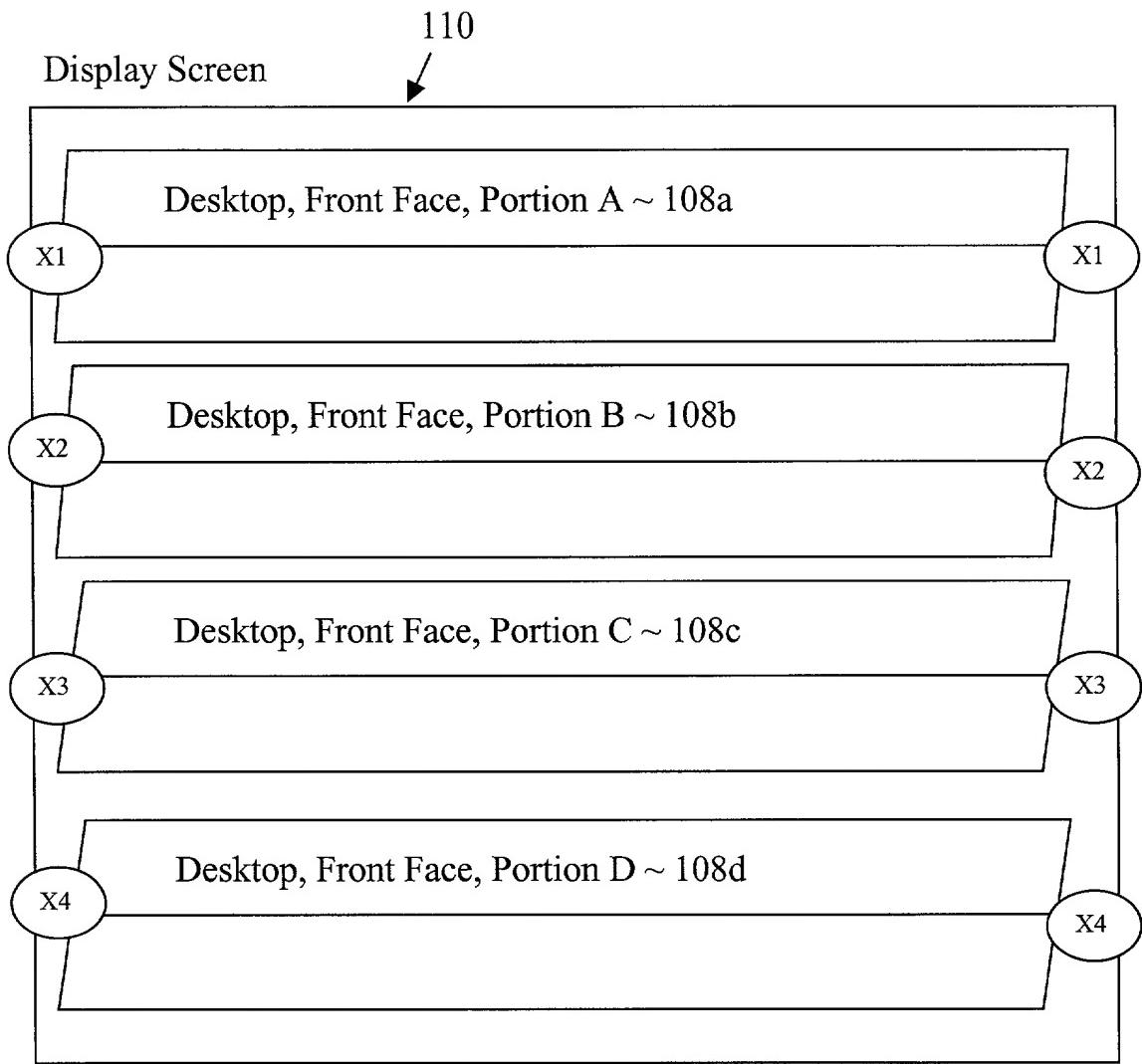


Figure 3a

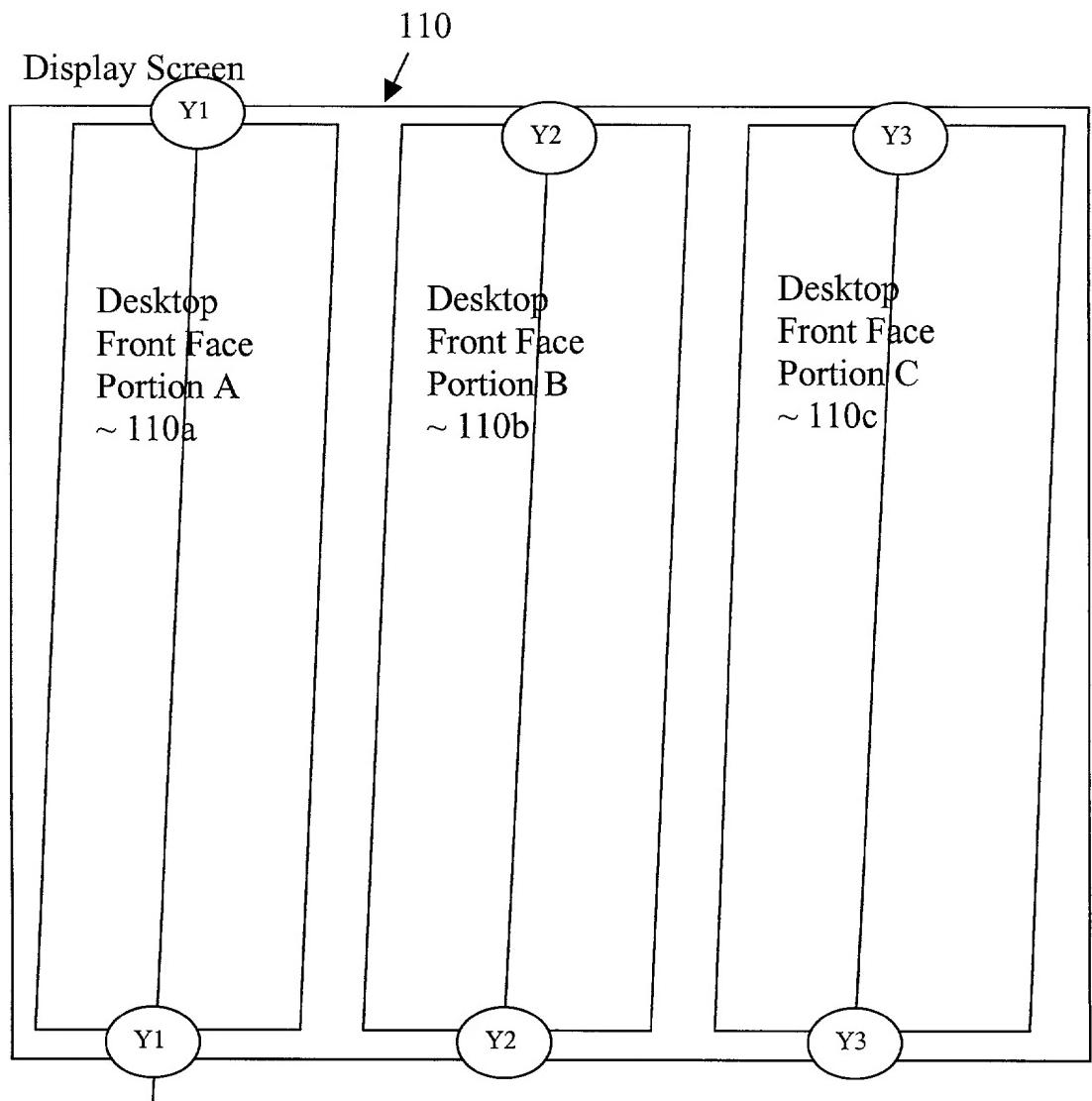


Figure 3b

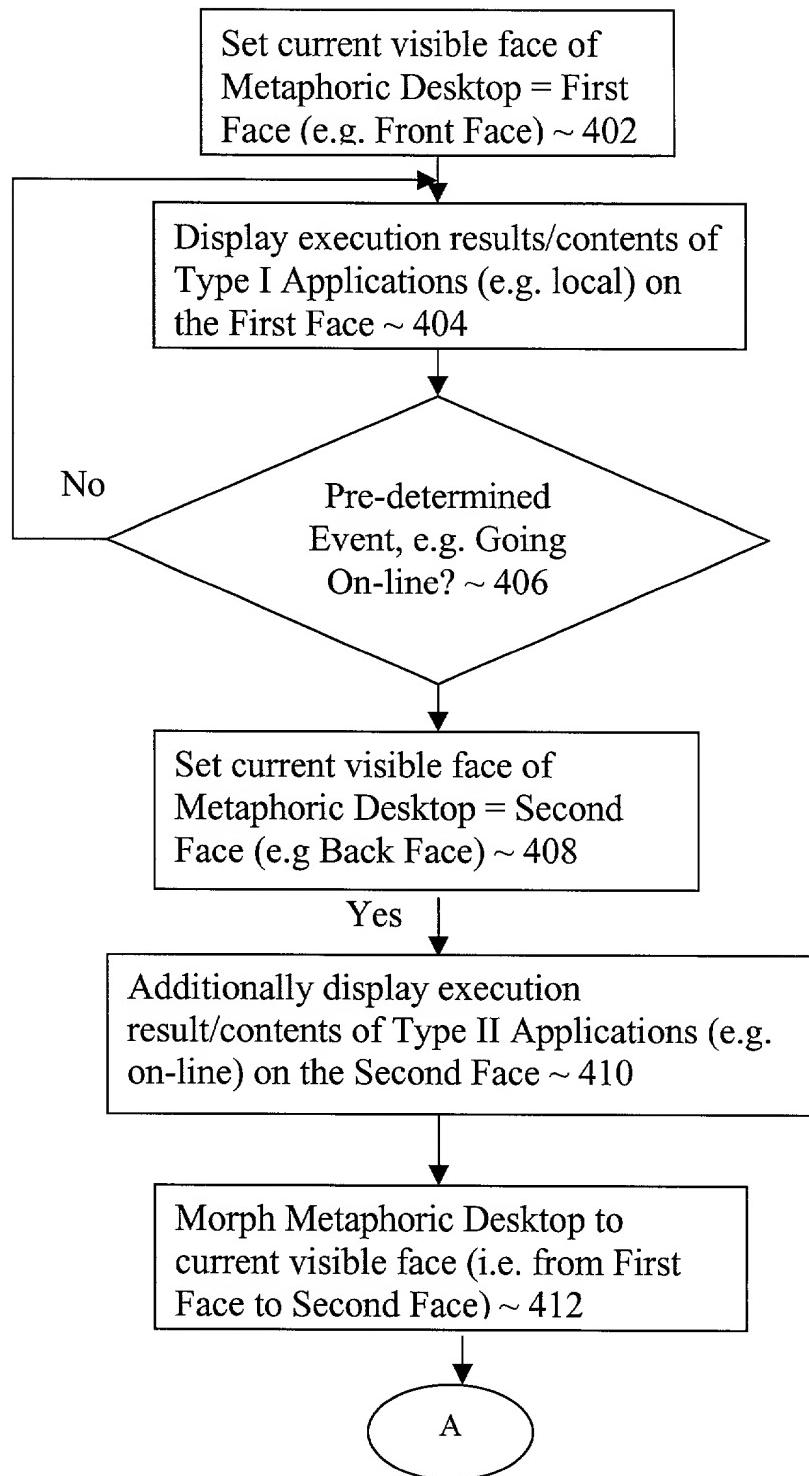


Figure 4a

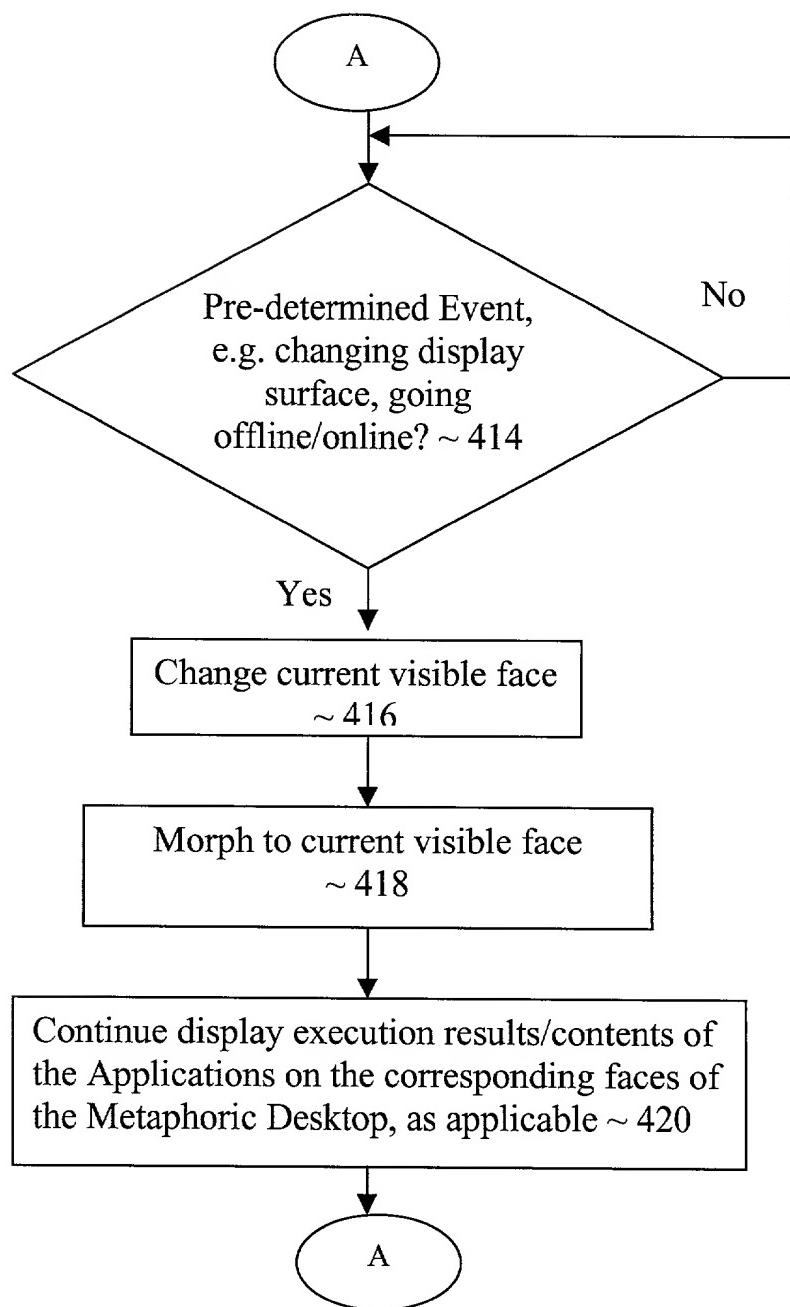


Figure 4b

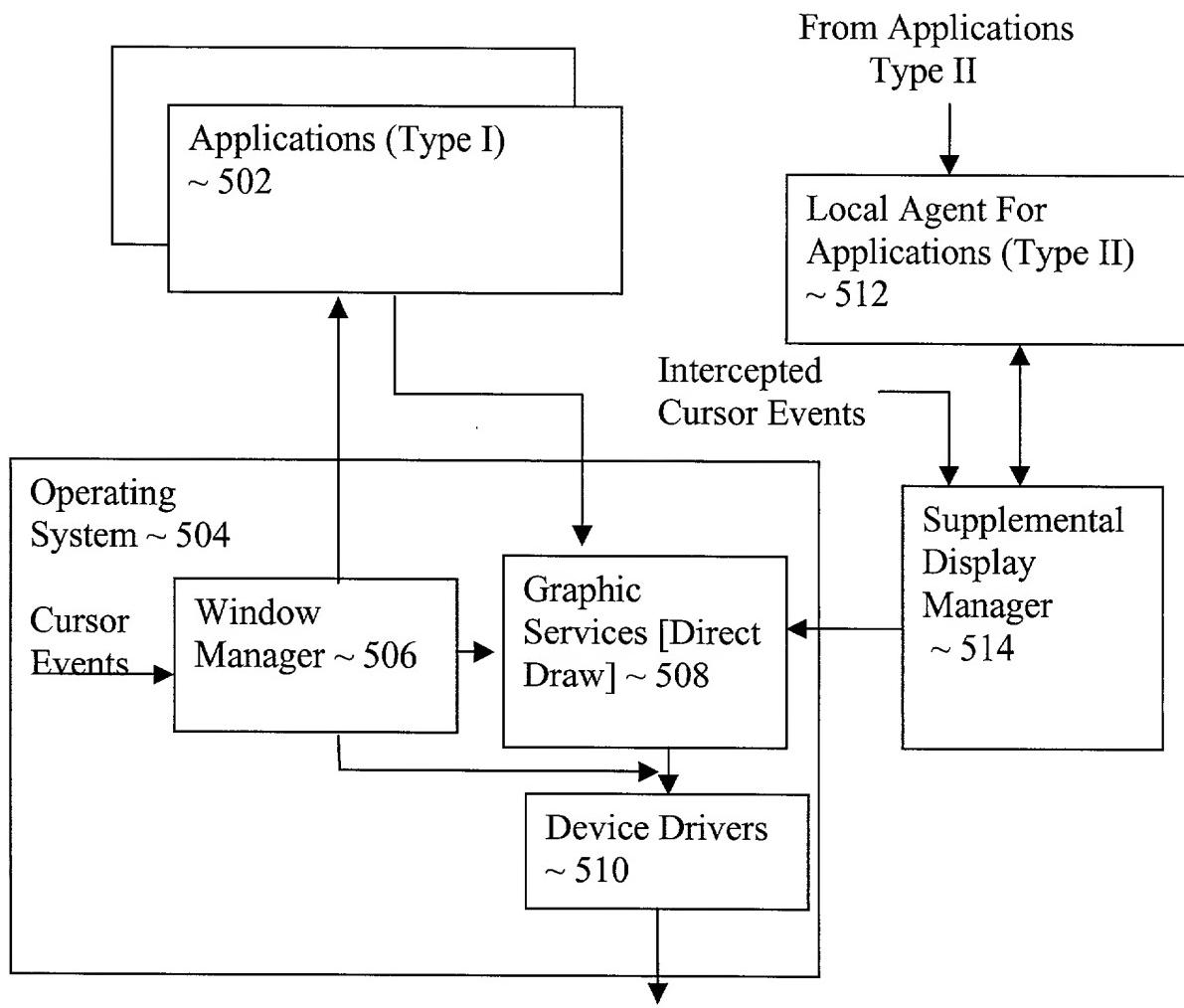


Figure 5

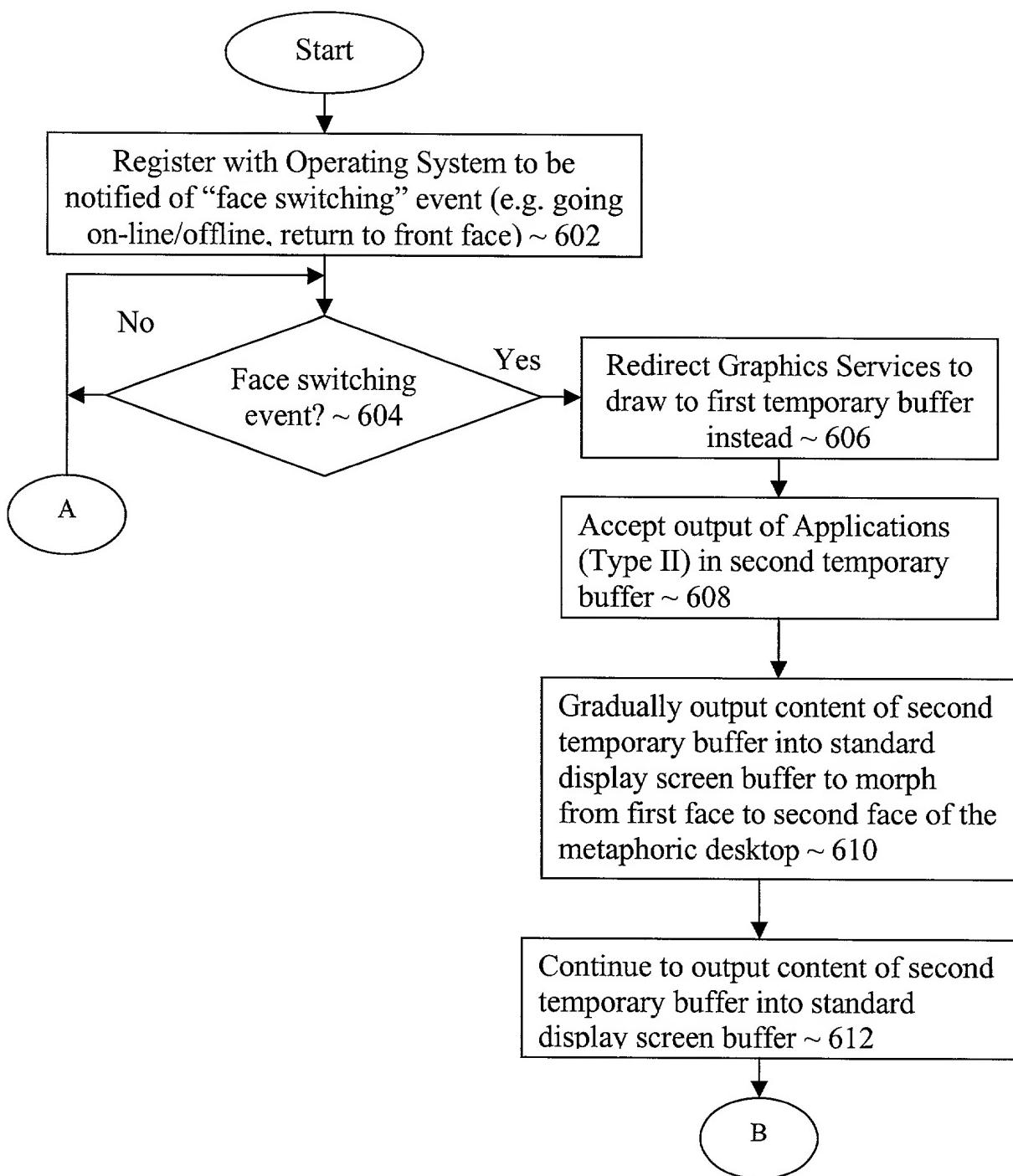


Figure 6a

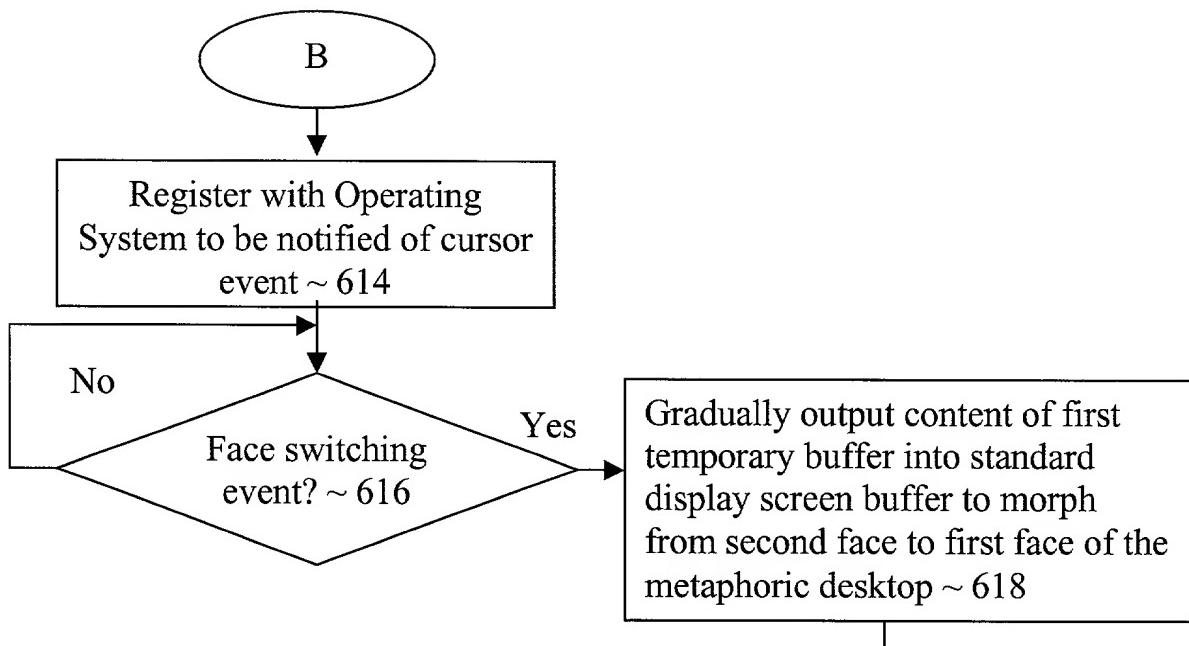


Figure 6b

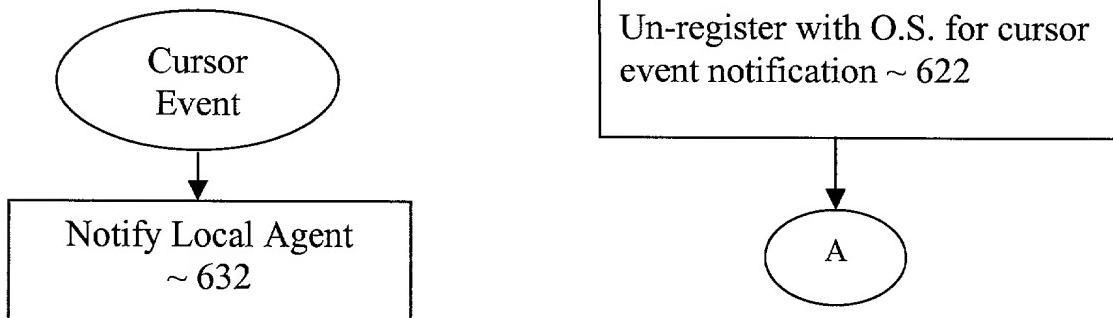


Figure 6c

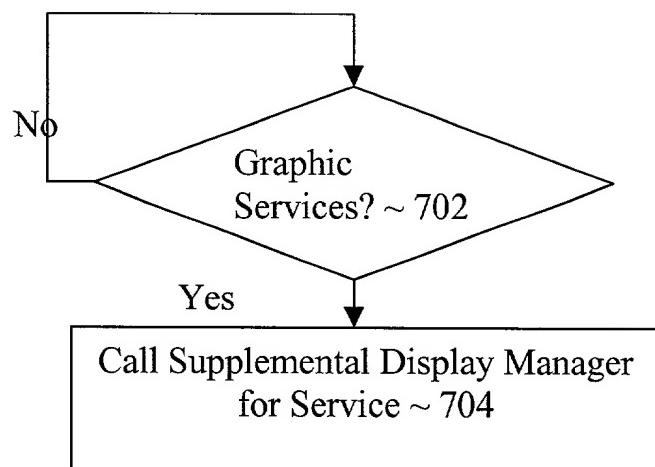


Figure 7a

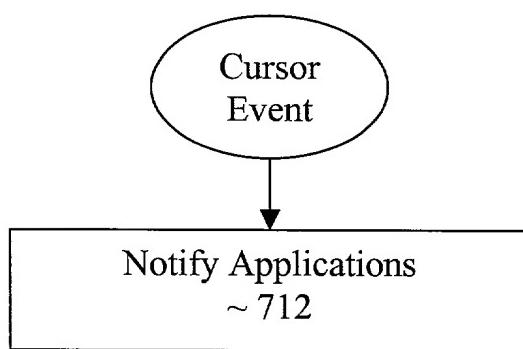


Figure 7b

800

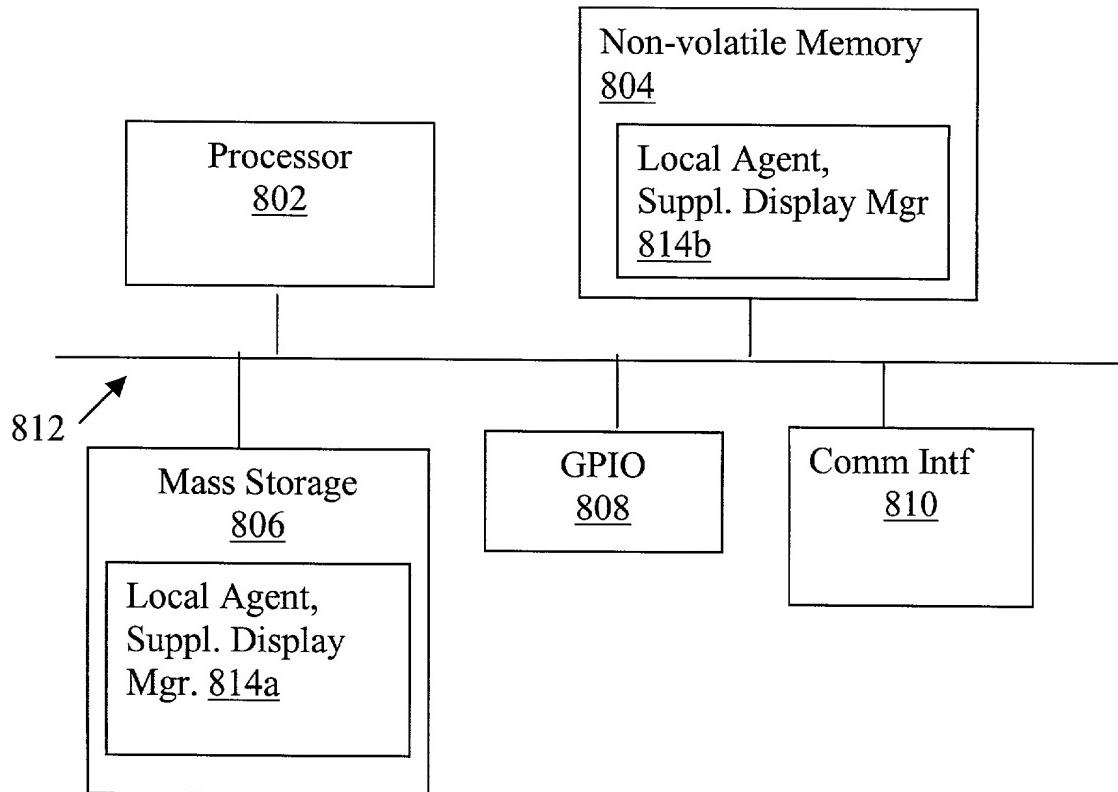


Figure 8

Attorney's Docket No.: 41003.P037PATENTDECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below, next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first, and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**A Multi-Plane Metaphoric Desktop Graphical User Interface and
Methods of Operation Associated Therewith**

the specification of which

X is attached hereto.
— was filed on _____ as
United States Application Number _____
or PCT International Application Number _____
and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claim(s), as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

<u>Prior Foreign Application(s)</u>			<u>Priority Claimed</u>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes No

I hereby claim the benefit under title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below

(Application Number) Filing Date _____

(Application Number)

Filing Date

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Number)

Filing Date

(Status -- patented,
pending, abandoned)

(Application Number)

Filing Date

(Status -- patented,
pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint Aloysius T. C. AuYeung, Reg. No. 35,432; Robert A. Diehl, Reg. No. 40,992, Jason K. Klindtworth (Reg. No. P47,211) and Robert T. Watt (Reg. No. 45,890) my patent attorney/agent; with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

Send correspondence to Aloysius T.C. AuYeung,

(Name of Attorney or Agent)

Columbia IP Law Group, LLC, 4900 SW Meadows Rd., Suite 109, Lake Oswego, OR 97035.
and direct telephone calls to Aloysius T.C. AuYeung, (503) 534-2800.

(Name of Attorney or Agent)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Inventor's Signature Eric Engstrom

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Date

11/20/00

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Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56
Duty to Disclose Information Material to Patentability

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclosure information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclosure all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

(1) Prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and

(2) The closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made or record in the application, and

(1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or

(2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:

(i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or

(ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

(1) Each inventor named in the application;

(2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and

(3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

(d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor